

## Sauger

*Stizostedion canadense*



**Similar Species:** Walleye (and saugeye)

**Identification:** Saddle-like markings on body, black dots on the dorsal (back) fin, large glossy eyes, and sharp teeth.

In South Dakota, saugers are found primarily in the Missouri River system. Adult saugers feed primarily on fish, crayfish, and other crustaceans and insects. The habitat of sauger is much like that of walleye, except that saugers are more tolerant of high turbidity (muddy water) and strong current. Saugers spawn when water temperature is between 41 and 45 F. Adults enter backwaters or tributaries and search for gravel or rock substrate where they can deposit their eggs. Saugers are an important sportfish on the Missouri River. The flesh tastes like walleye and thus is highly valued. Saugers grow more slowly than walleyes; most fish taken by anglers are less than 18 inches in length.

